

Confidential Serial No: 10/627,724
Response to Official Action of January 26, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

Cancel Claims 1-12 and 14-19 without prejudice or disclaimer

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)
12. (Canceled)
13. (Twice Amended) A handpiece used with flexible shaft assemblies, the handpiece comprises: a shrouded wall having a first end and a second end which is adapted to receive the flexible shaft assembly, and the shrouded wall has a generally cylindrical shape; a chuck assembly which is rotatably connected to the interior of the first end of the shrouded wall portion and protrudes out of the shrouded wall so that the jaws of the chuck are able to receive a bit, a first portion of the shrouded wall located at the first end has a

diameter in the range of about 25.5 mm to about 27.0 mm; and a second portion of the shrouded wall located between the first end and the second end includes a plurality of grooves or ridges and has a diameter in the range of about 25.2 mm to about 25.6 mm; and the chuck has an effective capacity of about 5 mm to above.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

PLEASE ADD NEW CLAIMS 20-30 AS FOLLOWS:

20. (New Claim) A handpiece used with flexible shaft assemblies, the handpiece comprises:

a shrouded wall having a first end and a second end which is adapted to receive the flexible shaft assembly;

a chuck assembly, wherein the chuck has an effective capacity of about 5 mm to above, which is rotatably connected to the interior of the first end of the shrouded wall portion so that the jaws of the chuck are able to receive a bit,

a first portion of the shrouded wall located at the first end has a diameter in the range of about 25.5 mm to above; and

a second portion of the shrouded wall located between the first end and the second end having a diameter in the range of about 25.2 mm to about 25.6 mm; and

wherein the first portion and second portion have different diameters.

21. (New Claim) The handpiece as claimed in claim 20, wherein the length of the first portion is in the range of about 35 mm to about 45 mm.

22. (New Claim) The handpiece as claimed in claim 20, wherein the length of the first portion is about 40 mm.

23. (New Claim) The handpiece as claimed in claim 20, wherein the diameter of the first portion is about 26 mm.

24. (New Claim) The handpiece as claimed in claim 20, wherein the thickness of the shrouded wall is in the range of about 0.7 mm to about 1.2 mm.

25. (New Claim) The handpiece as claimed in claim 1, wherein the thickness of the shrouded wall is about 0.7 mm-0.8 mm.

26. (New Claim) The handpiece as claimed in claim 20, wherein a second portion of the shrouded wall located between the first end and the second end includes a plurality of grooves or ridges.

27. (New Claim) The handpiece as claimed in claim 26, wherein the second portion has a length in the range of about 40 mm to about 85 mm.

28. (New Claim) The handpiece as claimed in claim 26, wherein the second portion has a length of about 62 mm.

29. (New Claim) The handpiece as claimed in claim 26, wherein the second portion has a diameter of about 25.4 mm.

30. (New Claim) The handpiece as claimed in claim 20, wherein the chuck includes a plurality of jaws which are able to secure a bit.